

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONDESCRIPTION OF A NEW *Oriolus* FROM THE
NICOBAR ISLANDS.

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Examination of a series of *Oriolus maculatus* from the various islands of the Nicobar group indicates that there are two geographic races represented in these islands. The *Oriolus macrourus* of Blyth¹ is from the central islands of the group. Therefore the bird from Car Nicobar, which differs from that of the remaining islands, is without a name. It may be called

***Oriolus maculatus eustictus*, subsp. nov.**

Chars. subsp..—Similar to *Oriolus maculatus macrourus*, but, in the male, with the yellow tips of the secondaries and tertials usually much larger and always present; yellow tips of the middle rectrices broader, those of the next pair also broader on both webs, on the outer web usually diagonal (instead of truncate as in *Oriolus maculatus macrourus*); in the female, with the back somewhat more golden.

Description..—Type, adult male, No. 178642, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Car Nicobar Island, Nicobar Islands, January 24, 1901; Dr. W. L. Abbott. A broad stripe from the bill on each side covering the lores and the orbital region, and meeting its fellow across the occiput, black; forehead and middle part of crown, bright gamboge yellow; remaining upper parts and sides of neck, between bright gamboge yellow and light cadmium, but the rump and upper tail-coverts less golden; most of tail slightly golden lemon chrome, but the two middle rectrices (excepting narrow tips), and the succeeding pair (excepting broad tips), together with the bases of the remaining pairs, black; most of the wings black, the inner edges of the quills somewhat brownish, but the middle part of the outer webs of some of the primaries narrowly margined with white, the inner primaries slightly tipped with dull white; narrow tips of secondaries, shaft stripes (broader basally) on two inner tertials, and a small speculum formed by tips of the primary wing-coverts, pinard yellow; greater wing-coverts lemon chrome; middle and lesser wing-coverts like the back; chin and median portion of throat, of the

¹*Oriolus macrourus* Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, XV, No. 169, 1846, p. 46 (central islands of the Nicobars).

same shade of yellow as the crown; remainder of lower surface, lining and edge of wing, like the rump; "iris red; bill dark purple at base, becoming pale at tip; feet dark leaden."

Measurements.—Male:¹ wing, 151–160.5 (average, 154.4) mm.; tail, 115–118.5 (116); exposed culmen, 30–32 (31.2); height of bill at base, 11–12.5 (11.7); tarsus, 24.5–26 (25.3); middle toe without claw, 19–21 (20).

*Female:*² wing, 146–152.5 (average, 149.6) mm.; tail, 114–117.5 (115.6); exposed culmen, 30–32 (31); height of bill at base, 10–11 (10.6); tarsus, 26; middle toe without claw, 19–21 (20).

Remarks.—This new race is less like *Oriolus maculatus andamanensis* than is *Oriolus maculatus macrourus* from the other Nicobar Islands, although it is intermediate in distribution. The specimens examined show very little individual variation. This race is apparently confined to the island of Car Nicobar.

There is apparently very little or no difference in size between *Oriolus maculatus macrourus* and *Oriolus maculatus eustictus*, as the following average measurements of four males of the former compared with the measurements of the latter given above will show: wing, 153.8 mm.; tail, 116.5; exposed culmen, 32.3; height of bill at base, 12; tarsus, 26.1; middle toe without claw, 20.

The original description of *Oriolus macrourus* Blyth³ indicates that the type locality of this form is the central islands of the Nicobar group, leaving thus the birds from Car Nicobar as the race requiring a name. Both of these forms are without much doubt subspecies of *Oriolus maculatus* Vieillot from Java, since individual variation in characters bridges over the difference between them and the birds commonly considered as forms of *Oriolus maculatus*. In *Oriolus maculatus maculatus* the outer tail-feather usually is not wholly yellow, but has some black at its base.

¹Five specimens.

²Three specimens.

³Loc. cit.